

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) Method for processing two or more initially decoded but not yet combined audio signals received or replayed from a bitstream, that each said decoded audio signals have has a different number of channels and/or different channel configurations, and that said decoded audio signals are to be combined by mixing and/or switching before being presented in a final channel configuration, wherein to each one of said initially decoded audio signals a corresponding specific channel configuration information item is attached and the channel configuration information items for said two or more decoded audio signals can demand channel configurations conflicting with each other,

and wherein said mixing and/or switching is controlled such that in case of non-matching number of channels and/or types of channel configurations the number and/or configuration type of the channels to be output following said mixing and/or following said switching is determined by related specific mixing and/or switching information provided from a content provider or broadcaster,

and wherein to the combined data stream to be presented a correspondingly updated channel configuration information item is attached.

2. (Previously presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein said bitstream has MPEG-4 format.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)